

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A product repairing method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a request from a user for repairing a product;
- selling a replacement part to said user in response to the request, provided that the replacement part necessary for said requested repair is in stock;
- retrieving a plurality of repair subscribers having said replacement part by means of a computer storing a subscribers data base accumulating information on a ~~plurality-group~~ of repair subscribers, said plurality of repair subscribers forming a sub-group of said group of repair subscribers;
- selecting one of said repair subscribers from among said retrieved plurality of repair subscribers; and
- procuring said replacement part from a said selected one repair subscriber that is one of the repair subscribers having said replacement part, provided that said replacement part necessary for the requested repair is not in stock; and
- repairing said product by using said replacement part.

2. (Currently Amended) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein, if said replacement part necessary for the requested repair is not in stock, the step of procuring said replacement part from said selected one repair subscriber includes the steps of:

- receiving deposit of the price of said replacement part from said user;
- receiving consignment of said replacement part from said selected one repair subscriber;
- supplying said replacement part to said user; and
- paying the price to said selected one repair subscriber.

3. (Currently Amended) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein, if said replacement part necessary for the requested repair is not in stock, the step of ~~procuring~~ retrieving said plurality of said replacement part from said repair subscriber repair subscribers includes the steps of:

- disclosing information on the possible procurement of said replacement part to said plurality-group of repair subscribers by way of a web site; and

inputting information on the replacement part to be sold to said web site by any of said plurality of repair subscribers having an intention of selling the replacement part;

~~selecting a repair subscriber that is one of said repair subscribers having the intention of selling the replacement part; and~~

~~procuring the replacement part from the selected repair subscriber.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The product repairing method according to claim 3, wherein said information on the replacement part to be sold includes a suggested price at which said replacement part is to be sold and said one selected repair subscriber is selected when the ~~input~~ suggested price does not exceed an upper limit set by said user and is the lowest among ~~the~~ suggested prices input by said plurality of repair subscribers having an intention of selling the replacement part.

5. (Previously Amended) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein said request from said user for repairing the product is received by way of a web site.

6. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said replacement part is sold to said user by way of a web site.

7. (Currently Amended) A product repairing apparatus comprising:

an input/output device connectable to a plurality of repair subscribers, said input/output device having:

a repair reception section adapted to receive an input of a request for a repair of a product from one of said plurality of repair subscribers;

a replacement part sales section adapted to input/output information on a possible sale of the replacement part to the requesting repair subscriber provided that the replacement part necessary for the requested repair is in stock; and

a replacement part procuring section adapted to input/output information on a procurement of the replacement part from any of the plurality of repair subscribers other than the one of said plurality of repair subscriber requesting the repair provided that the replacement part is not in stock; and

a memory device storing information on said plurality of repair subscribers as a data base.

8. (Currently Amended) The product repairing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said input/output device has an escrow section adapted to receive consignment information of said replacement part input by said plurality of repair subscribers having an intention of selling the replacement part and also to receive deposit information of a price of said replacement part input by said one requesting repair subscriber in order to realize the sale/purchase of the replacement part between said repair subscribers.

9. (Currently Amended) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein the user is said one of the plurality of repair subscribers.